

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RRDELABARRE:LLB
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY
EUR:REBARBOUR
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY

REF: STATE 089679

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ
APRIL 27 TO REVIEW ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND FY-78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO
TURKEY.

2. ESENBEL ASKED WHY ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED NOT TO EN-
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DORSE CLIFFORD RECOMMENDATION THAT CEILING ON FMS CASH
PURCHASES BE ENTIRELY LIFTGD. NIMETZ REPLIED THAT DECISION
WAS BASED ON OUR ESTIMATE THAT RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE FMS
CASH CEILING ENTIRELY STOOD LESS CHANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL THAN A LIMITED PROPOSAL COVERING ONLY THE F-4 PRO-
GRAM. NIMETZ NOTED THAT VIENNA CYPRUS TALKS HAD NOT
PRODUCED SUFFICIENT RESULTS TO ENABLE THE ADMINISTRATION TO

SUPPORT AND SECURE ENACTMENT OF A MORE GENEROUS PACKAGE FOR TURKEY. IN RESPONSE ESENBEL QUESTION ABOUT FORM AND TIMING OF FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL, NIMETZ SAID THAT LEGISLATION IS EXPECTED BY JUNE BUT WE CANNOT BE SURE OF TIMING OR WHAT WILL BE SHAPE OF BILL FINALLY ADOPTED BY CONGRESS. NIMETZ NOTED THAT MOST OF QUESTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED DURING

HIS CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY CONCERNED F-4 PROGRAM AND NOT DOLS 175 MILLION FMS PURCHASE AND FINANCING CEILING. MANY IN CONGRESS, HE SAID, QUESTIONED WHY A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE PROVISION WAS NEEDED ON F-4'S. THEY ALSO ASKED WHY TURKEY COULD NOT ENTER INTO A COMMERCIAL CONTRACT WITH THE MANUFACTURER. ESENBEL SAID THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL STAFF HAD REAFFIRMED OPPOSITION TO COMMERCIAL CONTRACT WHILE HE WAS IN ANKARA ON CONSULTATIONS.

3. ESENBEL CLAIMED HIS CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS HAD INDICATED THAT SITUATION ON HILL WITH REGARD TO TURKISH SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT HAD CHANGED FROM LAST YEAR AND THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT ADMINISTRATION POSITION IN SUPPORT OF TURKEY HAD NOT BEEN STRONGER. NIMETZ SAID WE KNOW SOME IN CONGRESS FELT THAT WAY BUT OUR JUDGMENT WAS THAT ADMINISTRATION POSITION WAS BALANCED AND APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME.

4. ESENBEL ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION (P.D.) REQUIRED FOR REMAINING DOLS 55.4 MILLION OF FMS PURCHASES AUTHORIZED FOR FY 1977. ESENBEL SAID TURKISH GENERAL STAFF HAD EMPHASIZED TO HIM IMPORTANCE OF EXPEDIT-
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IOUS MOVEMENT ON P.D. AND CONFIRMED THEY DID NOT WISH APPLY DOLS 55.4 MILLION TO F-4 PROGRAM. NIMETZ INDICATED WE WOULD MOVE AHEAD ON P.D.

5. ESENBEL COMPLAINED THAT ADMINISTRATION FAILURE TO PRESS FOR EARLY ACTION ON THE DCA HAD CAUSED GREAT CONCERN IN TURKEY, PARTICULARLY FOR PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL, WHO, FACING ELECTION, FELT CONSTRAINED TO MAKE STRONG STATEMENT ON MATTER.

6. NIMETZ NOTED THAT ADMINISTRATION HAD TOLD THE TURKS IN ADVANCE IT WOULD ENDORSE THE CLIFFORD RECOMMENDATION SUPPORTING DCA IN PRINCIPLE BUT WITHOUT PRESSING FOR ITS IMMEDIATE PASSAGE. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZED TURKISH SENSITIVITY TO LINKAGE AND HAD BEEN CAREFUL IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WE WERE KEEPING AN EYE ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION FOR DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD AFFECT PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE OF DCA. NIMETZ EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GOING AHEAD WITH CYPRUS TALKS IN NICOSIA NEXT MONTH. (SEPTTEL)

7. ESENBEL SAID HE ANTICIPATED RETURNING TO ANKARA TO ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL TO LONDON OR POSSIBLY WOULD MEET DEMIREL IN LONDON. HE EXPRESSED HOPE HE COULD SEE SECRETARY BEFORE LATTER LEFT WITH PRESIDENT FOR LONDON.
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